

Message Text

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ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 EB-11 COME-00 SCEM-02 INT-08 TRSE-00

OMB-01 CIEP-02 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-09 H-02 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-15 USIA-12

LAB-06 SIL-01 RSR-01 /117 W
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FM AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 9954

C O N F I D E N T I A L TRIPOLI 0502

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ENRG ELAB PINT LY

SUBJECT: POPULAR COMMITTEES AND THE OIL COMPANIES

REF: TRIPOLI 0497

1. SUMMARY: POPULAR COMMITTEES ARE FORMING IN MAJOR OIL COMPANIES. IN ATMOSPHERE OF GENERAL CONFUSION AS TO HOW FAR COMMITTEES CAN GO, THEIR ATTITUDES TOWARD THE COMPANIES VARY ACCORDING TO PREVIOUS STATE OF LABOR-MANAGEMENT RELATIONS. NO SERIOUS BREAKDOWN IN WORK DISCIPLINE HAS YET OCCURRED, BUT SOME COMMITTEES HAVE MADE OMINOUS DEMANDS. INDUSTRY WILL TAKE MATTERS TO MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM SUNDAY, APRIL 22, IF SITUATION WORSENS.

END SUMMARY.

2. REPRESENTATIVES OF ESSO, OCCIDENTAL, MOBIL, OASIS, AND AMOSEAS MET MORNING OF APRIL 19 TO DISCUSS IMPLICATIONS OF FORMATION ON 5 POPULAR COMMITTEES" FOR THEIR OPERATIONS.

3. MOBIL, WHICH RECEIVED FIRST THRUST (REFTTEL) SAID MASS MEETING TOOK PLACE AT COMPANY AFTERNOON APRIL 18,
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DURING WHICH ASU CELL WAS DISSOLVED AND A NEW "POPULAR COMMITTEE" ELECTED. MAJOR AND OMINOUS SUBJECT OF DISCUSSION WAS HOW NEW COMMITTEE WOULD "CONTROL OPERATIONS OF MOBIL". AT CLOSE OF MEETING, COMMITTEE INFORMED MOBIL MANAGEMENT THAT COMPANY LAWYER CHARLES SWANNER MUST BE DISCHARGED AND FIFTEEN MEMBERS MARCHED AGAINST "CERTAIN BOOK SHOP" TO REMOVE OBJECTIONABLE BOOKS. MOBIL HAS NO INFORMATION AS TO WHETHER GROUP ACTUALLY VISITED OFFENDING BOOK SHOP OR NOT. RE ASU SYG HAWADI'S VISIT TO MOBIL OFFICERS APRIL 17, (REFTEL), COMMITTEE MEMBERS CONCEDED HE HAD NOT SANCTIONED THREE "DEMANDS" COMMITTEE MADE TO COMPANY (NO CODED MESSAGES, CESSATION OF FOREIGN TRAINING AND DISCHARGE OF OFFENSIVE EXPATRIATES). COMPANY THEREFORE HOPES THAT EVENTUALLY THESE DEMANDS CAN BE NEGOTIATED AWAY.

4. OCCIDENTAL ASU CELL MEETING APRIL 18 WAS PRELIMINARY. ELECTIONS OF NEW "POPULAR COMMITTEE" WILL TAKE PLACE APRIL 22, BUT SMALL GROUP REPORTEDLY MARCHED (LIKE MOBIL COLLEAGUES) AGAINST BOOK SHOP AT CLOSE APRIL 18 MEETING.

5. AMOSEAS ASU HAD NOT MET AT TIME OF OIL COMPANIES' APRIL 19 MEETING, BUT AMOSEAS PRESIDENT GLOSS REPORTED HIS LIBYAN DIRECTOR OF RELATIONS SHAKEN BY QADHAFI'S SPEECHES AND EXPRESSED FEAR THAT "ANARCHY" PARTICULARLY IN OIL INDUSTRY, RAPIDLY APPROACHING. HE ADVISED GLOSS THAT OTHER OIL COMPANY MANAGERS CONTACT MINISTER OF PETROLEUM MABRUK IMMEDIATELY AND ATTEMPT TO ESTABLISH FOLLOWING:

A) QADHAFI'S REMARKS NOT APPLICABLE TO OIL COMPANIES OR PRIVATE SECTOR;

B) MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM WILL SPEAK WITH MINISTRY OF INTERIOR (I. E. IMMIGRATION) TO PREVENT POPULAR COMMITTEES FROM FORCING DEPORTATION OF KEY EXPATRIATES. AMOSEAS DIRECTOR OF RELATIONS SAID DANGER IN PRESENT SITUATION IS THAT COMMITTEES THINK THEY HAVE "ALL POWER" AND MAY CAUSE IRREPARABLE HARM BEFORE THEIR ACTIVITIES CAN BE CURBED.

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6. OASIS REPORTED A SERIES OF PRELIMINARY MEETINGS

WHICH HAD NOT RESULTED IN ELECTION OF NEW POPULAR COMMITTEE. HOWEVER, MORNING OF APRIL 19 U. S. CHIEF LAB TECHNICAIN ROADARTI WAS REFUSED ADMITTANCE TO HIS OFFICE BY ASU MEMBERS. OASIS ATTEMPTING SETTLE THIS PROBLEM.

7. ESSO HAD MOST OPTIMISTIC AND CALM REPORT. SENIOR LIBYAN REPORTED TO ESSO MANAGEMENT THAT IN APRIL 18 MEETING OF ASU CELL MEMBERS, WHOM COMPANY DESCRIBES AS SOME OF ITS BEST EMPLOYEES, CONVENED AND INTERPRETED QADHAFI' S REMARKS TO MEAN THEY ARE TO MAKE RECOMMENDATIONS ONLY -- TO MINISTRIES AND PERHAPS EVENTUALLY TO " TRIPOLI COMMITTEE" WHICH WILL BE MADE UP OF ALL " POPULAR COMMITTEES". ESSO EMPLOYEES CONTEND THRUST OF QADHAFI' S ATTACK IS AGAINST ASU ITSELF, PLUS LOCAL GOVERNMENT AND RANK AND FILE MINISTERIAL EMPLOYEES, AND DOES NOT APPLY TO OIL COMPANIES OR PRIVATE SECTOR.

8. DURING OIL COMPANY REPS' MEETING, ESSO REPORTED STORY THAT AS RSEULT OF MASS MEETING AT NATIONAL OIL COMPANY, PRESIDENT SHATAWI AND OTHER TOP EXECUTIVES HAD BEEN REPLACED BY A 50- MAN " POPULAR- COMMITTEE". VISITING U. S. FLUOR CORP. REP TOLD EMBOFF APRIL 20 THAT NOC OFFICES WERE IN STATE OF CHAOS MORNING OF APRIL 19 BUT BY NOON BUSINESS APPEARED TO BE GOING ON AS USUAL.

9. INFORMATION AVAILABLE TO OIL COMPANIES ALSO INDICATES THAT PART OF CLEAN SWEEP IS TO REMOVE " MARXISTS", WHEREVER THEY LOCATED. FROM VARIOUS SOURCES THEY HAVE REPORTS OF MORE THAN 100 ARRESTS OF " LEFTISTS" IN PAST FEW DAYS. ONE AMOSEAS LAWYER (LIBYAN) , WHO KNOWN FOR LEFTIST LEARNINGS, JAILED APRIL 16; VALUED LIBYAN EXECUTIVE WITH MOBIL, ACCUSED BY COMMITTEE OF BEING " COMMUNIST", ARRESTED APRIL 19.

10. WITH APPROACH OF WEEKEND AND GENERAL UNCERTAINTY OF SITUATION, INDUSTRY REPS ELECTED MAKE PLEA TO MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM FOR ASSISTANCE APRIL 22, AND THEN ONLY IF THINGS ARE WORSE.
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